Letter to the Editor

Corliss Lamont

To the Editors:

Mr. John M. Russell has written a most interesting article, "Qualifying the Ideal, the Actual, and the Self: Dewey's Idea of God," in the Autumn 1988 issue of *Religious Humanism.* However, like so many other interpreters of John Dewey's philosophy, he has made the mistake of claiming that Dewey incorporated the word "God" into his general philosophy. This claim is based primarily on Dewey's book, *A Common Faith.*

I was able to refute this claim in my article "New Light on Dewey's *A Common Faith,*" printed in the *Journal of Philosophy,* January 5, 1951 and reprinted in my book, *Voice in the Wilderness,* Prometheus Books, 1974.

In his *A Common Faith* Dewey states, "It is this active relation between ideal and actual to which I would give the name 'God'." In personal correspondence with Professor Dewey, he said that he should have used the word "should" instead of "would", and made clear that his redefinition of "God" stands merely as a recommendation for the meaning of the name God, and not as an acceptance of the word God into his philosophic system. John Dewey, then, was in no sense a theist, either intellectually or verbally.

New York City
December 1988

INDEX TO VOLUME XXIII, 1989

An Apple for My Teacher by Louis D. Rubin (review). 23:45-46, wntr '89

BEATTIE, PAUL H. The Ebb and Flow of Life (excerpt), 23:202, fall '89
_____. Editorial, 23:102-4, sum '89
_____. John Dewey's Social Vision and the Unitarian Church (excerpts), 23:189-91, fall '89
_____. The Prospect for Humanism (excerpts), 23:196-201, fall '89
_____. The Tragic View of Life (excerpts), 23:192-95, fall '89
_____. Twenty Years in a Humanist Pulpit, 23:182-88, fall '89
_____. The Winter's Tale: Shakespeare's Answer to Easter, 23:24-31, 76-81, wntr, spr '89
Beattie, Paul H.: A Brief Biography. Earl K. Holt, 23:205, fall '89
Beattie, Paul H.: The Memorial Service. 23:155-70, fall '89
Beattie, Paul H.: Tributes and Reflections. 23:171-80, fall '89
Being, Courage, and Love. Mason Olds, 23:14-18, 63-69, wntr, spr '89
Bloom, Allan. *The Closing of the American Mind* (review), 23:45-46, wntr '89
BOX, HOWARD. Hymnals and Humanists? 23:32-36, wntr '89
Boyer, Ernest L. *College: The Undergraduate Experience* (review), 23:45-46, wntr '89
The Brass Larynx (poem). Byron McCulloh, 23:37 wntr '89

CHANDLER, DANIEL ROSS. Mahatma Gandhi and John Haynes Holmes, 23:82-87, 120-25, 144, spr, sum '89
A Charge to Humanists (opinion). Roger E. Greeley, 23:42, wntr '89
Christian Cults: How Fundamentalists React to Unitarians and Minority Religious Groups. Earl Lee, 23:139-44, sum '89
Circling the Wagons or Pointing Beyond: The Sources of Our Authority. Davidson Loehr, 23:2-13, wntr '89
The Closing of the American Mind by Allan Bloom (review). 23:45-46, wntr '89
College: The Undergraduate Experience by Ernest L. Boyer (review). 23:45-46, wntr '89
Common Sense Suicide by Doris Portwood (review). 23:46-47, wntr '89
Confession (poem). Ronald Smits, 23:74, spr '89
Conscientious Humanism (opinion). R. Upton Nelson, 23:97, spr '89
Crossing the Bayonne Bridge (poem). Ronald Smits, 23:74, spr '89

DIETRICH, JOHN H. Thoughts on God, 23:105-19, sum '89
DOUD, JOHN F. My Theology of Ministry, 23:19-23, 31, wntr '89

Letter to the Editor

Corliss Lamont

To the Editors:

Mr. John M. Russell has written a most interesting article, "Qualifying the Ideal, the Actual, and the Self: Dewey's Idea of God," in the Autumn 1988 issue of *Religious Humanism.* However, like so many other interpreters of John Dewey's philosophy, he has made the mistake of claiming that Dewey incorporated the word "God" into his general philosophy. This claim is based primarily on Dewey's book, *A Common Faith.*

I was able to refute this claim in my article "New Light on Dewey's *A Common Faith,*" printed in the *Journal of Philosophy,* January 5, 1951 and reprinted in my book, *Voice in the Wilderness,* Prometheus Books, 1974.

In his *A Common Faith* Dewey states, "It is this active relation between ideal and actual to which I would give the name 'God'." In personal correspondence with Professor Dewey, he said that he should have used the word "should" instead of "would", and made clear that his redefinition of "God" stands merely as a recommendation for the meaning of the name God, and not as an acceptance of the word God into his philosophic system. John Dewey, then, was in no sense a theist, either intellectually or verbally.

New York City
December 1988

INDEX TO VOLUME XXIII, 1989

An Apple for My Teacher by Louis D. Rubin (review). 23:45-46, wntr '89

BEATTIE, PAUL H. The Ebb and Flow of Life (excerpt), 23:202, fall '89
_____. Editorial, 23:102-4, sum '89
_____. John Dewey's Social Vision and the Unitarian Church (excerpts), 23:189-91, fall '89
_____. The Prospect for Humanism (excerpts), 23:196-201, fall '89
_____. The Tragic View of Life (excerpts), 23:192-95, fall '89
_____. Twenty Years in a Humanist Pulpit, 23:182-88, fall '89
_____. The Winter's Tale: Shakespeare's Answer to Easter, 23:24-31, 76-81, wntr, spr '89
Beattie, Paul H.: A Brief Biography. Earl K. Holt, 23:205, fall '89
Beattie, Paul H.: The Memorial Service. 23:155-70, fall '89
Beattie, Paul H.: Tributes and Reflections. 23:171-80, fall '89
Being, Courage, and Love. Mason Olds, 23:14-18, 63-69, wntr, spr '89
Bloom, Allan. *The Closing of the American Mind* (review), 23:45-46, wntr '89
BOX, HOWARD. Hymnals and Humanists? 23:32-36, wntr '89
Boyer, Ernest L. *College: The Undergraduate Experience* (review), 23:45-46, wntr '89
The Brass Larynx (poem). Byron McCulloh, 23:37 wntr '89

CHANDLER, DANIEL ROSS. Mahatma Gandhi and John Haynes Holmes, 23:82-87, 120-25, 144, spr, sum '89
A Charge to Humanists (opinion). Roger E. Greeley, 23:42, wntr '89
Christian Cults: How Fundamentalists React to Unitarians and Minority Religious Groups. Earl Lee, 23:139-44, sum '89
Circling the Wagons or Pointing Beyond: The Sources of Our Authority. Davidson Loehr, 23:2-13, wntr '89
The Closing of the American Mind by Allan Bloom (review). 23:45-46, wntr '89
College: The Undergraduate Experience by Ernest L. Boyer (review). 23:45-46, wntr '89
Common Sense Suicide by Doris Portwood (review). 23:46-47, wntr '89
Confession (poem). Ronald Smits, 23:74, spr '89
Conscientious Humanism (opinion). R. Upton Nelson, 23:97, spr '89
Crossing the Bayonne Bridge (poem). Ronald Smits, 23:74, spr '89

DIETRICH, JOHN H. Thoughts on God, 23:105-19, sum '89
DOUD, JOHN F. My Theology of Ministry, 23:19-23, 31, wntr '89

The Ebb and Flow of Life (excerpt). Paul H. Beattie, 23:202, fall '89
Editorials: Paul H. Beattie, 23:102-4, sum '89; J. Harold Hadley, 23:154, fall '89
The Emerging Morality: A Futuristic Perspective. Lester A. Kirkendall, 23:145-51, sum '89
Emerson on Transcendentalism, ed. Edward L. Ericson (review). 23:44, wntr '89
Ericson, Edward L., ed. *Emerson on Transcendentalism* (review), 23:44, wntr '89

Gesture of Balance by Tarthang Tulku (review). 23:96, spr '89
Gold, Peter. *Tibetan Pilgrimage* (review), 23:96-98, spr '89
The Gospel and the Church by Alfred Firmin Loisy (review). 23:44-45, wntr '89
Greeley, Roger E. A Charge to Humanists (opinion), 23:42, wntr '89

HADLEY, J. HAROLD. Editorial, 23:154, fall '89
HOLT, EARL K. Paul H. Beattie: A Brief Biography, 23:205, fall '89
Homosexuals in History: A Study of Ambivalence in Society, Literature, and the Arts by A. L. Rowse (review). 23:98, spr '89
The Humanist and Fundamentalism. Mason Olds, 23:126-38, sum '89
Humphrey, Derek. *Let Me Die before I Wake* and *Jean's Way* (review), 23:46-47, wntr '89
Hymnals and Humanists? Howard Box, 23:32-36, wntr '89

Ian Ramsay by William B. Williamson (review). 23:45, wntr '89
Immortality: A Humanist Reaction. Herbert A. Tonne, 23:70-73, spr '89

Jean's Way by Derek Humphrey (review). 23:46-47, wntr '89
John Dewey's Social Vision and the Unitarian Church (excerpts). Paul H. Beattie, 23:189-91, fall '89

KING, MARGARET J. The Persistence of Dali (arts), 23:95, spr '89
_____. Wrestling Alligators (arts), 23:204, fall '89
KIRKENDALL, LESTER A. The Emerging Morality: A Futuristic Perspective, 23:145-51, sum '89

Lamont, Corliss. Letter, 23:206, fall '89
The Last Picture Show Redux (arts). John Saari, 23:43, wntr '89
Lee, Earl. Christian Cults: How Fundamentalists React to Unitarians and Minority Religious Groups, 23:139-44, sum '89
Let Me Die before I Wake by Derek Humphrey (review). 23:46-47, wntr '89
Letters: Corliss Lamont, 23:206, fall '89; Mason Olds, 23:40, wntr '89; Frank Schulman, 23:40-41, wntr '89; William Henry Young, 23:41-42, wntr '89
LOEHR, DAVIDSON. Circling the Wagons or Pointing Beyond: The Sources of Our Authority, 23:2-13, wntr '89

Loin Tamer (poem). Byron McCulloh, 23:38, wntr '89
Loisy, Alfred Firmin. *The Gospel and the Church* (review), 23:44-45, wntr '89
Love of Knowledge by Tarthang Tulku (review). 23:96, spr '89

Mahatma Gandhi and John Haynes Holmes. Daniel Ross Chandler, 23:82-87, 120-25, 144, spr, sum '89
MCCULLOH, BYRON. The Brass Larynx; Loin Tamer; On Playing the Trombone (poems), 23:37-39, wntr '89
Memorial Service for Paul H. Beattie. 23:155-70, fall '89
My Theology of Ministry. John F. Doud, 23:19-23, 31, wntr '89

Nelson, R. Upton. Conscientious Humanism (opinion), 23:97, spr '89

OLDS, MASON. Being, Courage, and Love, 23:14-18, 63-69, wntr, spr '89
_____. The Humanist and Fundamentalism, 23:126-38, sum '89
_____. Letter, 23:40, wntr '89
On Playing the Trombone (poem). Byron McCulloh, 23:39, wntr '89

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Reformation of Church and Dogma: 1300-1700* (review), 23:47, wntr '89
The Persistence of Dali (arts). Margaret J. King, 23:95, spr '89
A Portrait of Lost Tibet by Rosemary Jones Tung (review). 23:96-98, spr '89
Portwood, Doris. *Common Sense Suicide* (review), 23:46-47, wntr '89
The Prospect for Humanism (excerpts). Paul H. Beattie, 23:196-201, fall '89

Reformation of Church and Dogma: 1300-1700 by Jaroslav Pelikan (review). 23:47, wntr '89
Rowse, A.L. *Homosexuals in History: A History of Ambivalence in Society, Literature, and the Arts* (review). 23:98, spr '89
Rubin, Louis D. *An Apple for My Teacher* (review), 23:45-46, wntr '89
RUSTERHOLTZ, WALLACE P. Thomas Paine and Liberal Religion, 23:88-94, spr '89

SAARI, JOHN. The Last Picture Show Redux (arts), 23:43, wntr '89
Schulman, Frank. Letter, 23:40-41, wntr '89
SMITS, RONALD. Confession; Crossing the Bayonne Bridge (poems), 23:74-75, spr '89
Spiritual Entropy: Zamyatin's Dystopian Critique of Institutional Christianity. Kerry S. Walters, 23:50-62, spr '89

Thomas Paine and Liberal Religion. Wallace P. Rusterholtz, 23:88-94, spr '89
Thoughts on God. John H. Dietrich, 23:105-19, sum '89
Tibetan Pilgrimage by Peter Gold (review). 23:96-98, spr '89
To Lhasa and Beyond by Giuseppe Tucci (review). 23:96-98, spr '89

TONNE, HERBERT A. Immortality: A Humanist Reaction, 23:70-73, spr '89
The Tragic View of Life (excerpts). Paul H. Beattie, 23:192-95, fall '89
Tributes and Reflections: Paul H. Beattie. 23:171-80, fall '89
Tucci, Giuseppe. *To Lhasa and Beyond* (review), 23:96-98, spr '89
Tulku, Tarthang. *Gesture of Balance* and *Love of Knowledge* (review), 23:96, spr '89
Tung, Rosemary Jones. *Portrait of Lost Tibet* (review), 23:96-98, spr '89
Twenty Years in a Humanist Pulpit. Paul H. Beattie, 23:182-88, fall '89

WALTERS, KERRY S. Spiritual Entropy: Zamyatin's Critique of Institutional Christianity, 23:50-62, spr '89
Williamson, William B. *Ian Ramsay* (review), 23:45, wntr '89
The Winter's Tale: Shakespeare's Answer to Easter. Paul H. Beattie, 23:24-31, 76-81, wntr, spr '89
Wrestling Alligators (arts). Margaret J. King, 23:204, fall '89

Young, William Henry. Letter, 23:41-42, wntr '89

Ownership/Circulation
Date of Filing, 1 October 1989; Title RELIGIOUS HUMANISM; Frequency of Issue, quarterly; winter, spring, summer, autumn; Location of known office of publication, P.O. Box 278, Yellow Springs, OH 45387; Location of headquarters of office of publication, same as above; Publisher, Fellowship of Religious Humanists, P.O. Box 278, Yellow Springs, OH 45387; Editors, Paul and Lucinda Beattie, First Unitarian Church, Ellsworth and Morewood Aves., Pittsburgh, PA (through Vol. 23, no. 3); Harold Hadley, 35 Pomeroy Ct., Amherst, MA (Vol. 23, no. 4); Managing Editor, same as above; Owner, Fellowship of Religious Humanists, a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Illinois, no stock, no stockholders; Average No. Copies each issue during the last 12 months, 1200; mail subscriptions, free distribution by mail and other means, 573; left over, 727; Issue nearest filing date, 1200; mail subscriptions, 694; free distribution, 21; total circulation, 715; left over, 485.